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CLAIM LISTING:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-16 is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-16 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1. (Previously Presented) A radio communication system, comprising:
 - a primary station;
 - a secondary station;
- a random access channel for the transmission of data from the secondary station to the primary station;

wherein the secondary station includes means for requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource;

wherein the primary station includes means for transmitting a response to the request;

wherein the secondary station includes means for subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature; and

wherein the primary station includes means for transmitting a further response to the contention resolution signal, means for selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access, and means for transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

- 2. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the random access channel is adapted for transmission of data in packets.
- 3. (Previously Presented) A primary station for use in a radio communication system including a random access channel for the transmission of data from a secondary station to the primary station, the primary station comprising:

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means for transmitting a response to a request from the secondary station for access to a random access channel resource, wherein the request includes transmission of a signal encoded with a first signature;

means for transmitting a further response to a subsequent contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature transmitted by the secondary station;

means for selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access; and

means for transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

4. (Previously Presented) The primary station as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

means for transmitting a further response to a further contention resolution signal transmitted by the secondary station.

5. (Previously Presented) The primary station as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

means for transmitting the channel allocation signal at the same time as each of the responses.

6. (Previously Presented) The primary station as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

means for subdividing the channel allocation signal into a plurality of portions; and

means for transmitting each of the portions at the same time as a respective one of the responses.

7. (Previously Presented) The primary station as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

means for including the channel allocation signal as part of the or each response.

the responses.

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8. (Previously Presented) The primary station as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

means for transmitting a random access channel status message indicating the highest data rate available on the random access channel.

9. (Previously Presented) A secondary station for use in a radio communication system including a random access channel for the transmission of data to a primary station, the secondary station comprising:

means for requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource; means for receiving a response from the primary station and subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature; means for receiving a further response from the primary station; and means for determining which channel has been allocated from a channel allocation signal transmitted by the primary station at the same time as at least one of

10. (Previously Presented) The secondary station as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

means for receiving from the primary station a random access channel status message indicating the availability of random access channel resources; and means for using the status message as a check on the channel allocation signal before initial transmission of data.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a radio communication system including a random access channel for the transmission of data from a secondary station to a primary station, the method comprising:

the secondary station requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource;

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the primary station transmitting a response to the request;

the secondary station subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature;

the primary station transmitting a further response to the contention resolution signal;

the primary station selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access; and

the primary station transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

the secondary station transmitting a further contention resolution signal and the primary station transmitting a further response.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

the primary station transmitting the channel allocation signal at the same time as each of the responses.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

the primary station subdividing the channel allocation signaling into a plurality of portions; and

the primary station transmitting each of the portions at the same time as a respective one of the responses.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

the primary station including the allocation signaling as part of the or each response.

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16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

the primary station transmitting a random access channel status message indicating the highest data rate available on the random access channel.